AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-8. (Cancelled).
- 9. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing a kidney dysfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
- 10. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing a kidney dysfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight-ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.
- 11. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing nephropathy caused by a nephrotoxic agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight-ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.
- 12. (Previously Presented) A method for providing kidney protection from a kidney dysfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

- 13. (Previously Presented) A method for providing protection from a kidney dysfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight-ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.
- 14. (Previously Presented) A method for providing protection from nephropathy caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight-ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.
- 15. (New) A method for preventing a kidney disfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent selected from the group consisting of lithium, antibiotics and anticancer drugs with a nephrotoxic potential and environmental contaminants, which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
- 16. (New) A method for preventing a kidney disfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent, selected from the group consisting of lithium, antibiotics and anticancer drugs with a nephrotoxic potential and environmental contaminants, which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

- 17. (New) A method for preventing a tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said mycotoxin 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
- 18. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by Aspergillus ochraceus.
 - 19. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.
- 20. (New) A method for preventing a tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said mycotoxin a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.
- 21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by Aspergillus ochraceus.
 - 22. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.
- 23. (New) A method for preventing a tubular necrosis caused by lithium which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said lithium a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.
- 24. (New) A method for preventing a tubular necrosis caused by lithium which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said lithium 2-5 mg of

acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

- 25. (New) A method for providing kidney protection from tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said mycotoxin 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
- 26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by Aspergillus ochraceus.
 - 27. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.
- 28. (New) A method for providing kidney protection from tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said mycotoxin a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.
- 29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by Aspergillus ochraceus.
 - 30. (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.
- 31. (New) A method for providing protection from a tubular necrosis caused by lithium which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said lithium a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

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- 32. (New) A method for providing protection from a tubular necrosis caused by lithium which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said lithium 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
- 33. (New) A method for preventing a tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual, at risk to come into contact with food contaminated by said mycotoxin, 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
- 34. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by Aspergillus ochraceus.
 - 35. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.